

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Consideration of Special Closures for Seabird and Marine Mammal Disturbance

North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting

February 21, 2008 • San Rafael, CA

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Background

- **Nationally significant seabird colonies in NCCSR (e.g. Colony at South Farallon Islands largest in contiguous U.S.)**
- **Inter-agency Seabird Protection Program addressing education, regulation, and monitoring**
- **Request by NCCRSR members to consider protections through MLPA planning process**
- **Disturbance Subcommittee of the NCCRSR formed**



Department Memo – Special Closures

- Department memo prepared Oct 19, 2007: “*Special Closures as they apply to the Marine Life Protection Act.*”
 - Special Closures – Marine area-based access restrictions
 - Provision in same regulatory subsection as the MLPA (Section 632, Title 14, CCR)
 - Consider separately but along with MPA proposals
 - Use sparingly



Disturbance Work Group Activities to Date

- **Two January workshops**
 - **Interested NCCRSG members**
 - **Non-RSG members**
 - **SAT members**
- **Reviewed history of previous planning efforts**
- **Reviewed “hot spots” in NCCSR (based on species diversity and abundance)**
 - **Disturbance threats**
 - **Hot spot overlap with proposed MPAs**
 - **Human use constraints and considerations**
 - **Goal: identify options to address disturbance (“options menu” rather than reaching agreement)**



Workshop Follow-Up

- Validation of workshop information
- Report back from participants to NCCRSG at Feb 21 meeting
 - Options identified
 - Human needs and constraints identified



Marine Bird and Mammal Hot spots NCC

"Hot Spot" Name

North Farallon Island
(B,M)

South East Farallon
Island (B,M)

Fish Rocks (B,M)

Gualala Point Island
(B)

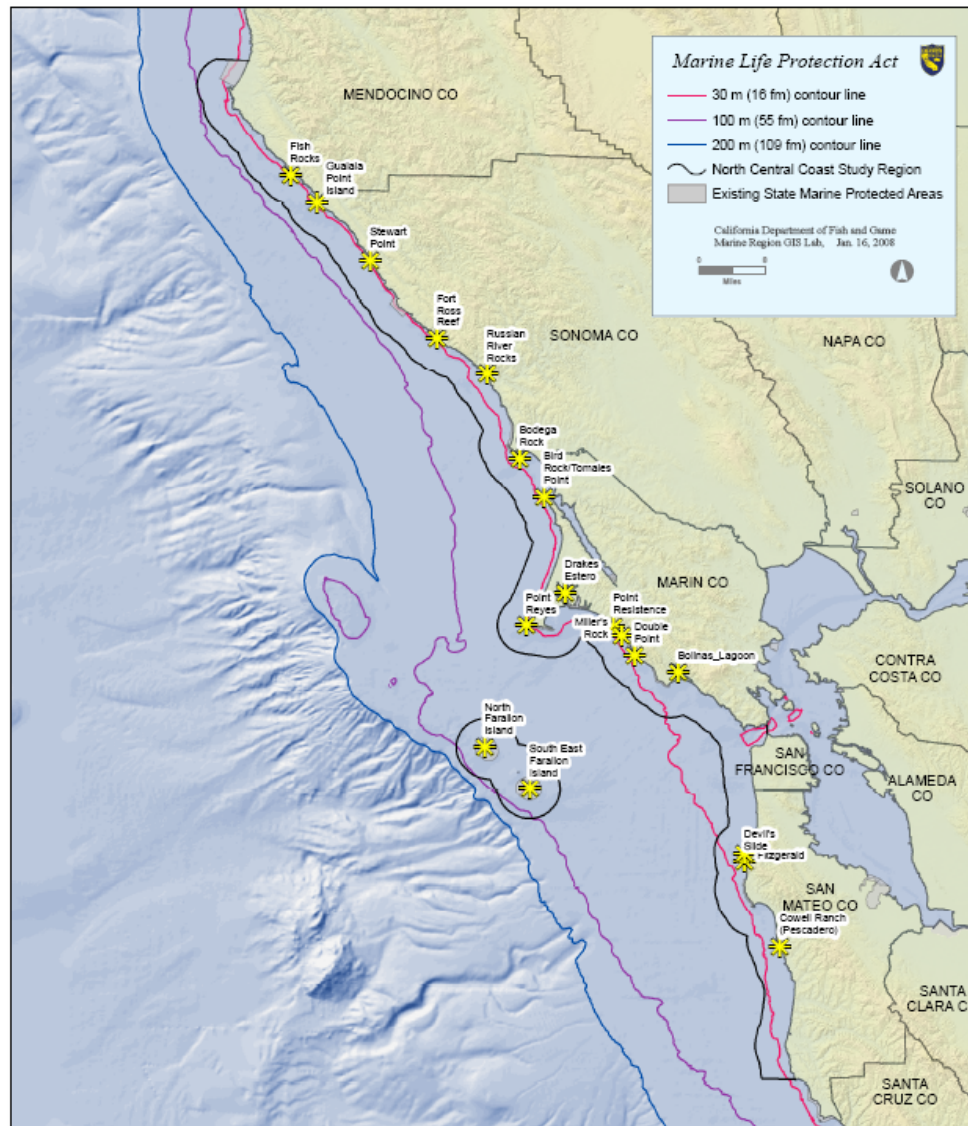
Stewart Point (M)

Fort Ross Reef (M)

Russian River Rocks
(B,M)

Bodega Rock (B,M)

Bird Rock/Tomales
Point (B,M)



"Hot Spot" Name

Point Reyes (B,M)

Drakes Estero (M)

Point Resistance
(B)

Miller's Rock (B)

Double Point (B)

Bolinas Lagoon
(M)

Fitzgerald (M)

Devil's Slide (B)

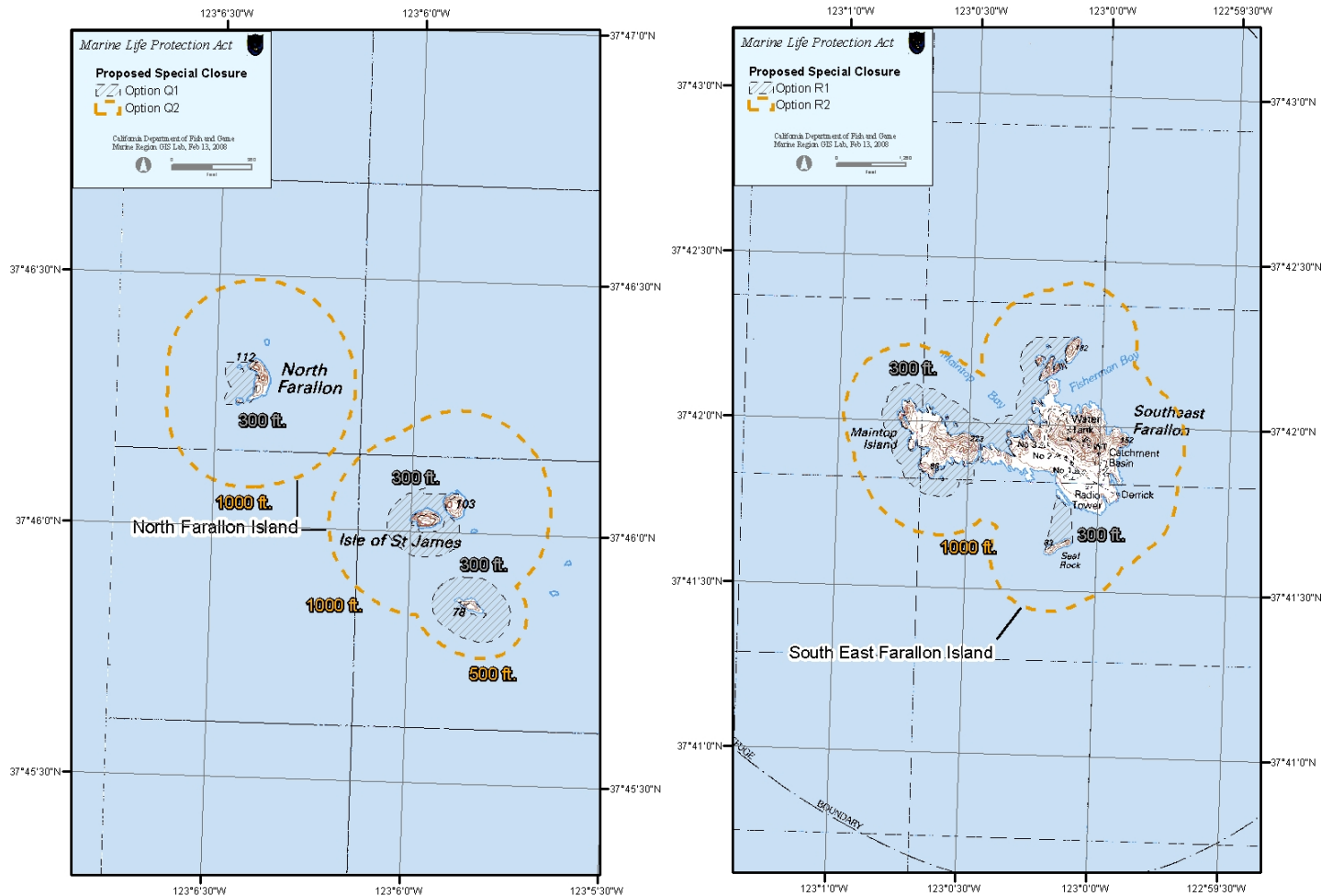
Cowell Ranch
(Pescadero) (M)



Options Identified

- 13 locations with range of options
 - Enhanced public education only (no special closure)
 - Closure options from 300 ft to ¼ mile
 - Seasonality options
- 2 locations had broad support for a special closure option
- Templates and maps created for each option

Example of special closure option



NCCRSB Bird and Mammal Disturbance Workgroup Proposed Special Closures (1/17/08)



Human Use Needs Identified

- Ecotourism – birdwatching, shark tours
- Safe transit
- Safe anchorage
- Surfing
- Coastal kayaking
- Others



Next steps

- Clarify SAT evaluation of options
- NCCRSG consider options during MPA proposal revisions process
- Evaluate next steps